

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /069 W
-----073928 011751Z /62
R 312033Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7784
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINR, EC
SUBJECT: GOE CONSTITUTES SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

REF: QUITO 2013

1. BY DECREE ON MARCH 30 THE GOE ANNOUNCED THE COMPOSITION OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL, WHICH HAS BEEN IN RECESS SINCE ITS MARCH 13 CALL FOR ELECTIONS IN JULY. THE MEMBERS ARE: MANUEL BENJAMIN CARRION, JUAN ISAAC LOVATO, RAFAEL ARIZAGA VEGA, JOSE BAQUERO DE LA CALLE, SEVERO ESPINOZA VALDIVIESO, LUIS PACHANO CARRION, AND RODRIGO ALVAREZ SAA. ONLY CARRION AND LOVATO SAT ON THE PREDECESSOR SUPREME TRIBUNAL OF THE REFERENDUM, AND ONE OF THEM MOST PROBABLY WILL BE ELECTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP TO PRESIDE OVER THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL. CARRION AND LOVATO, ALONG WITH ARIZAGA AND BAQUERO, HAVE HAD LONG, DISTINGUISHED CAREERS IN THE PUBLIC EYE, INCLUDING CABINET PORTFOLIOS, AMBASSADORSHIPS, ETC. THE REMAINING THREE MEMBERS ARE LESS WELL-KNOWN. THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION OF THE GROUP IS MIXED, WITH THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEFT (INCLUDING TWO MARXISTS), TWO OF THE CENTER, AND TWO OF THE RIGHT.

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2. COMMENT: THE FORMATION OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL, ALTHOUGH OVERDUE, WILL HELP TO QUELL DOUBTS ABOUT THE GOE'S INTENTION TO SEE THROUGH THE RETORNO PROCESS. PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE GOE'S GOOD FAITH WILL BE FURTHER ENHANCED BY THE TRIBUNAL'S IDEOLOGICAL MIX AND THE STATURE OF MOST OF ITS MEMBERS, WHO CAN BE EXPECTED TO OVERSEE THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN INDEPENDENTLY.

END COMMENT.

CORR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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